

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03887 01 OF 02 011536Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 SSC-01

NIC-01 /140 W

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P R 011429Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 942

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 3887

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

REF: STOCKHOLM 3874

SUMMARY: PALME'S NEWLY ANNOUNCED CABINET AND GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION IS MOSTLY A RESHUFFLE AND EMPHASIZES CONTINUITY RATHER THAN ANY RADICAL NEW DIRECTIONS. THE THREE NEW DEPARTMENTS, REPLACING TWO OLD DEPARTMENTS, INDICATE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY MORE ATTENTION TO CRUCIAL ELECTION ISSUES SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, AND DECENTRALIZATION. OF THE FOUR NEW FACES ONLY THE NEW EDUCATION MINISTER SEEMS TO BE A STRONG POLITICAL FIGURE. PALME HAS CONSTRUCTED A FAIRLY STRONG TEAM WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL IN A POSSIBLE 1974 ELECTION, BUT HE IS TAKING A CALCULATED RISK ON SOCDEM LEFT-WING WHICH HAS LITTLE TO CHEER ABOUT IN NEW CABINET. END SUMMARY.

1. FULL NEW SWEDISH CABINET TO BE NAMED BY KING-IN-  
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03887 01 OF 02 011536Z

COUNCIL NOV. 2 CONSISTS OF FOLLOWING:

A. INCUMBENTS WHO REMAINED IN SAME POSITIONS:

FINANCE, GUNNAR STRANG; JUSTICE, LENNART GEIJER; SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SVEN ASPLING; COMMUNICATIONS, BENGT NORLING; TRADE, KJELL-OLOF FELDT; INDUSTRY, RUNE JOHANSSON; MIN. W/O PORTFOLIO, BERTIL LOFBERG; MIN. W/O PORTFOLIO, CARL LIDBOM.

B. FORMER CABINET MEMBERS SHIFTED TO NEW PORTFOLIOS

(OLD POSITION IN PARENTHESES): FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SVEN ANDERSSON (DEFENSE); DEFENSE, ERIC HOLMQVIST (INTERIOR); AGRICULTURE, SVANTE LUNDKVIST (CIVIL SERVICE); HOUSING, INGVAR CARLSSON (EDUCATION); LABOR, INGEMUND BENGTTSSON (AGRICULTURE).

C. NEW MINISTERS: EDUCATION, BERTIL ZACHRISSON;

MINISTER W/O PORTFOLIO FOR FOREIGN AID, GERTRUD SIGURDSON; COMMUNE AFFAIRS, HANS GUSTAFSSON; MINISTER W/O PORTFOLIO, ANNA-GRETA LEIJON (SHE WILL WORK AS DEPUTY TO LABOR MINISTER).

2. PALME HAS REORGANIZED HIS MINISTRIES TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO LABOR AND HOUSING AFFAIRS. FORMER INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH INCLUDED THOSE TWO FUNCTIONS, HAS BEEN ABOLISHED AND SEPARATE LABOR AND HOUSING MINISTRIES BEEN SET UP. PERHAPS STRONGEST POLITICIAN IN CABINET, WHO HAD BEEN A LEADING CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER, INGEMUND BENGTTSSON, GETS THE NEW LABOR JOB AND HE INFORMED CHARGE EVENING OF OCT. 31 HE WAS PLEASED WITH ASSIGNMENT. VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LABOR, PARTICULARLY UNEMPLOYMENT, WERE MAJOR ELECTION ISSUES IN 1973. HOUSING HAS ALSO BEEN HOT POLITICAL ISSUE, AND THE DYNAMIC YOUNG IDEOLOGUE, INGVAR CARLSSON, FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER AND CUTTING CRITIC OF US ADMINISTRATION AND US SOCIETY, GETS THAT PORTFOLIO.

3. THE THIRD NEW DEPARTMENT, COMMUNE AFFAIRS, WILL TAKE OVER FUNCTIONS OF FORMER CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN ABOLISHED. BY ITS TITLE WE CAN ASSUME NEW MINISTRY WILL DEAL MOSTLY WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 03887 01 OF 02 011536Z

PERHAPS PALME INTENDS BY THIS MOVE TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN YET ANOTHER SENSITIVE POLITICAL AREA, DECENTRALIZATION, WHICH HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF OPPOSITION CENTRE PARTY. NEW COMMUNE MINISTER, GUSTAFSSON, IS A POLITICAL UNKNOWN WHO HAS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO CENTRE LEADER FALLDIN IN APPEARANCE AND MANNER.

4. STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN IMPROVED.

ALVA MYRDAL, SOON TO SETTLE IN CALIFORNIA, AND CAMILLA  
OHDNOFF, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED FIRST FEMALE PROVINCIAL  
GOVERNOR IN SWEDISH HISTORY, HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY TWO  
WOMEN WHOSE DEBUT ON TV OCT. 31 WAS LESS THAN IMPRESSIVE.  
MORE IMPORTANT OF THE TWO IS GERTRUD SIGURDSEN, WHO  
COMES DIRECTLY INTO THE GOVERNMENT FROM  
SWEDEN'S PPOWERFUL CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, LO.  
STRANGELY, THOUGH, SHE WILL NOT WORK IN LABOR MINISTRY  
BUT RATHER IN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AID.  
ALVA MYRDAL'S DISARMAMENT FUNCTIONS IN MFA WILL PRESUMABLY  
BE SUBSUMED BY THE REGULAR MFA ESTABLISHMENT AND PROBABLY  
GIVEN TO DR. HANS BLIX. THE OTHER NEW WOMAN, ANNA-GRETA  
LEIJON, WILL SERVE AS DEPUTY IN NEW MINISTRY OF LABOR  
UNDER INGEMUND BENGTTSSON.

5. MOST INTERESTING OF NEW MINISTERS IS BERTIL ZACHRISSON,  
EDUCATION. HE IS A LEADER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIAN  
BROTHERHOOD MOVEMENT, AND IS PRES. OF THE PERMANENT INTERNATL.  
STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE FOR VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH AN ANTI-US-VIETNAM  
POLICY RADICAL, LIKE CARLSSON, HE IS A RATHER MORE SOBER AND  
SOLID TYPE THAN CARLSSON. FIRST REACTION OF SWEDES WHO HAVE  
BEEN  
UNHAPPY WITH CARLSSON'S RADICAL INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION  
FIELD HAS BEEN FAVORABLE TOWARD ZACHRISSON. HE IS SEEN  
AS LIKELY TO RESTORE EMPHASIS TO SOLID, TRADITIONAL  
EDUCATION POLICY. MOREOVER, ZACHRISSON'S STRONG RELIGIOUS  
COMMITMENT IS THOUGHT TO BE HELPFUL IN EXTENDING SOCDEM  
APPEAL TO NON-MARXIST BELIEVERS.  
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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03887 02 OF 02 011540Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 943  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 3887

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PGOV SW  
SUBJECT: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

COMMENT: PALME HAS MADE A MODEST MOVE TOWARD THE POLITICAL MIDDLE, MAINTAINING OLD AND RESPECTED MEN LIKE ANDERSSON AND STRANG IN KEY POSITIONS. ALTHOUGH A RESHUFFLE, IT IS CERTAINLY NOT A RENOVATION. WITH AN EYE TOWARD POSSIBLE ELECTIONS IN 1974 PALME HAS COME UP WITH A SOLID, EXPERIENCED CABINET AIMED TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AND PERSUADE SWEDISH PEOPLE THAT, AS ALWAYS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PLY THE MAINSTREAM IN SWEDEN AND THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO RISK ALL ON AN UNTRIED OPPOSITION. BUT ALONG WITH CONTINUITY PALME HAS ALSO RECOGNIZED VOTER DISCONTENT OVER SUCH ISSUES AS UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH ALMOST COST HIM HIS JOB. HIS REORGANIZATION IS SEEMINGLY AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT GOVERNMENT WILL COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SENSITIVE PROBLEM AREAS.

7. PALME WOULD SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN CALCULATED RISK THAT  
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03887 02 OF 02 011540Z

LEFT WING AND YOUTH SEGMENT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAN BE KEPT IN HARNESS, FOR HE HAS GIVEN THEM VERY LITTLE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT. WITH EXCEPTION OF ZACHRISSON, WHO IS RADICAL MOSTLY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THERE IS CERTAINLY NO LEFTWARD SHIFT IN THIS NEW GOVERNMENT.

8. WE ARE SENDING SEPTTEL ON NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON, WITH ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE OF APPOINTMENT TO SWEDISH FOREIGN POLICY AND SWEDISH-US RELATIONS.  
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